

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 127

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JEC PARIS 22566

E.O. 11652: GDS, DECON 8/23/74

TAGS: VS, PINT, IR

SUBJECT: GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 22ND PLENARY SESSION, AUGUST 23, 1973

REF: USDEL JEC PARIS 22038 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN GVN/PRG BILATERALS TODAY TWO SIDES BLAMED EACH OTHER FOR LACK OF PROGRESS. PRG PRESS SPOKESMAN PRAISED "BIG" MINH'S RECENT STATEMENT ON PEACE AND NEUTRALITY AND DENOUNCED RVN AUGUST 26 SENATE ELECTION. NEXT MEETING AUGUST 30. END SUMMARY

2. MINISTER OF STATE HIEU FOR PRG CITED STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT THIEU CONCERNING "EXTERMINATION" OF COMMUNISTS, NON-RECOGNITION OF ANY "THIRD FORCE" IN SVN AND RESTRICTIONS ON DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AS PROOF THAT GVN AND US SOUGHT TO SABOTAGE PARIS AGREEMENT. HE MADE STANDARD ACCUSATIONS AGAINST GVN RE POLICE OPERATIONS, NIBBLING ATTACKS, REFUSAL TO RETURN CAPTURED CIVILIANS, MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS, AND REFUSAL TO GUARANTEE DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES. HIEU NOTED IN PARTICULAR GVN EFFORTS TO STOP MOVEMENT BETWEEN TWO ZONES OF CONTROL. HIEU CONCLUDED BY BLAMING GVN FOR BLOCKING PROGRESS IN TALKS BY REFUSING TO DISCUSS PRIORITY TOPICS OF MAKING CEASE-FIRE
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EFFECTIVE, IMMEDIATE RETURN OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES, AND IMMEDIATE

GUARANTEE OFF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES.

3. ACTING DELEGATION CHIEF TRAN VAN AN FOR GVN, IN BRIEF AND MODERATE REMARKS, ASSERTED HIS GOVERNMENT HAD STRICTLY OBSERVED PARIS AGREEMENT AND BLAMED OTHER SIDE FOR LACK OF PROGRESS. AN ACCUSED THEM OF CONTINUING THEIR EFFORT TO SUBJUGATE SVN BY MEANS OF VIOLENCE, FRAUD, TERRORISM AND PROPAGANDA. AS EVIDENCE AN CITED COSVN DIRECTIVES 2/73 AND 3/73 AS WELL AS STATEMENTS OF NVA CAPTAIN TRUONG VAN VI. AN URGED OTHER SIDE TO CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE, AVOID POLEMICS, AND ENGAGE IN OPEN AND LOYAL DISCUSSIONS.

4. AT USUAL AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE PRG SPOKESMAN LY VAN SAU READ IRAN'S COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING ACCEPTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP IN ICCS AND CITED MENTION OF PRG BY NAME THEREIN AS CONFIRMATION THAT THERE WERE TWO ZONES OF CONTROL AND TWO ADMINISTRATIONS IN SVN, CONTRARY TO POSITION OF GVN. SAU ALLEGED BELLICOSE STATEMENTS IN SAIGON CONTRADICTED GVNDEL'S PROFESSIONS OF DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE IN PARIS. SAU TERMED GENRAL DUONG VAN MINH'S RECENT STATEMENT ON PARIS AGREEMENT AND NEUTRALITY "OBJECTIVE" AND "IN CONFORMITY WITH REALITY OF SITUATION IN SVN". SAU MADE STANDARD ALLEGATIONS RE GVN "NIBBLING ATTACKS" AND POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND ATTACKED AUGUST 26 SENATE ELECTIONS AS A FRAUD AND PART OF US SCHEME TO MAINTAIN "FASCIST THIEU REGIME" IN SVN BY PREPARING WAY

FOR THIEU TO RUN AGAIN FOR PRESIDENT IN 1975.

5. COMMENT: AN REPRESENTED GVN IN ABSENCE OF VIEN AND PHONG (REFTEL). VIEN IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO PARIS EVENING AUGUST 23. NEXT SESSION WILL BE AUGUST 30.
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